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of the neck often induces a fusion of ring with ring. The cartilage support for the bronchial tubes may be in the form of a spiral band, traceable well into the substance of the lung. Most of these adaptations are obviously means for resisting the enormous pressure of the water on the gas-filled cavities of the lungs, etc.

G. H. P.

Reptiles of North America. — Under the title of *Contributions to North American Herpetology*, Mr. Robert Baird McLain, of Wheeling, W. Va., has published privately three memoirs on the collections of reptiles in the Museum of Stanford University. They are entitled "Contributions to Neo-tropical Herpetology," "Notes on a Collection of Reptiles made by C. J. Pierson at Fort Smith, Kansas," and "Critical Notes on a Collection of Reptiles from the Western Coast of the United States." All bear the date of February, 1899.

These papers are full of misprints; the form of statement is often crude, and the references to other authors, as Professor Cope and Dr. Van Denburgh, are characterized by the sweeping severity which extreme youth frequently displays towards the masters.

It might fairly be inferred from the nature of their contents that these papers had received the criticism and approval of the instructors of Stanford University. It is well to state, therefore, that they represent merely the laboratory notes of an undergraduate student who had free access to the museum shelves. That publication of these notes was contemplated was not learned until after Mr. McLain had left the institution, and their appearance in print is contrary to the advice of the officers of the museum, and despite their protest. One new species *Thamnophis steinegeri* (misprinted *rteinegeri*) is described and well figured. As the material has not yet been critically studied, the value of the species is yet to be determined.

D. S. J.

Zoölogical Notes. — Dr. Oscar Loew, who has recently been called to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, has just published at Munich a timely and valuable book of some 175 pages, entitled *Die chemische Energie der lebenden Zellen*.

"Movement of the Nervous Elements" (*Act. Soc. Scient. Chili*, Tome VIII, pp. 71-76) is the title of a critical review by Daniel Monfallet, of the more recently discovered facts and their bearings on the theories of Rabl-Ruckhard, Tanzi, and Ramon y Cajal, as to

the interaction of the nervous elements. The author concludes that our present knowledge on this subject is too scanty to afford any sound basis for generalizations.

The fourth number of Volume II of the *American Journal of Physiology* contains the following papers: "The Mechanism of the Motor Reactions of Paramecium," by H. S. Jennings; "On Absorption from the Peritoneal Cavity," by L. B. Mendel; "The Origin of the 'Traube' Waves," by H. C. Wood, Jr.; "Laws of Chemotaxis in Paramecium," by H. S. Jennings; and "The Chemistry of the Melanins," by W. Jones.

The hearts of several species of lungless salamanders were studied several years ago by Hopkins, who reported the absence of pulmonary veins, but the presence of an auricular septum. H. L. Bruner (*Anat. Anzeiger*, Bd. XV, No 22) has reinvestigated the subject, and finds no auricular septum present, but that the sinu-atrial valve is so placed as to be easily mistaken for such a septum, an error which he believes Hopkins to have fallen into.

Dr. Carlgren thinks (*Zool. Anz.*, Vol. XXII, p. 102) that the *Branchiocerianthus urceolus*, recently described by Mark, is a hydroid near *Corymorpha*.

Walter May contributes an excellent review of the classification and distribution of the Alcyonoid polyps to the *Jenaische Zeitschrift*, Bd. XXXIII. Many new species are described.

In his "Revision of the Squirrels of Mexico and Central America" (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. I, pp. 15-106), Nelson recognizes forty-three species and subspecies.

"North American Fauna No. 14," issued by the *Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture*, contains an account of the Natural History of the Tres Marias Islands, situated in the Pacific Ocean, not far from the Mexican coast. The mammals, birds, reptiles, crustaceans, and plants are dealt with, and the report concludes with a bibliography of these islands.

Cyathocephalus truncatus is the only known cestode characterized by the transformation of the entire scolex into a single bothrium. To this genus Riegenbach has just added a second species, *C. catinatus*, from *Solea vulgaris*.

Scolex abnormalities are very common in *Cœnurus serialis*, according to Railliet, *C. R. Soc. de Biol.*, Jan. 21, 1899, who found in a

single bladder, containing 246 scolices, only 217 normal. The abnormalities are grouped as follows: (1) simple diminution in the number of suckers, two heads having three each; (2) simple augmentation in the number, two heads having five suckers each, six, six each, one eight and one nine suckers; (3) double rostellum, two heads with two rostella each; (4) double rostellum with extra suckers also, two scolices with double rostella and six suckers each, one such with nine and one with ten suckers. If it be true that the heads with six suckers produce the triangular chains in the adult, as has been generally maintained, the author justly inquires what heads with three, five, eight, nine, and ten suckers will produce?

In a seal shot during the Swedish Arctic Expedition of 1898 were found abundant remains of a cephalopod, identified by Lönnberg (*Öfversigt, Kgl. Vet. Akad. Förh.*, 1898, No. 10, p. 791) as *Gonatus fabricii*. This demonstration of the use of cephalopods as food by the seal in its pelagic wanderings shows "that the cephalopods form an important link in the chain of marine organisms from the microscopic plankton to the mammals."